

Report to Women



Information for South Dakota Women

Spring/Summer 2000

Dear Friend:

South Dakota has the highest percentage of two income families in the country.

Women work in manufacturing, health care and education. They own and operate small businesses, and they manage some of the largest companies in South Dakota.

Women farm, ranch, drive trucks, work as police and have proven that they are capable of doing any job in the state.



Senator Daschle listens to the concerns of a constituent during a recent trip to South Dakota.

It wasn't that long ago, however, that a girl in elementary school wouldn't have dreamed of being a scientist, a doctor or, heaven forbid, a politician. Today the doors of opportunity are being opened for our daughters. We've come a long way.

But let's be honest -- women face hurdles. Too often, even if a woman does her job as well as a male counterpart, she isn't compensated as well. And many women add the important responsibility of raising children, keeping food on the table and staying involved in the community on top of a busy work schedule.

South Dakota has always valued hard work. It makes sense that if a woman puts in an honest day's work, she deserves just compensation.

I'm pleased to provide this report to the working women of South Dakota. I hope you'll find it useful, and please contact me if you have any thoughts, questions or comments on any issues that concern you.

Call Tom!

Toll-Free:
1-800-424-9094

In Aberdeen:
(605) 225-8823

In Rapid City:
(605) 348-7551

In Sioux Falls:
(605) 334-9596

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Paycheck Equity: A Fundamental Issue of Fairness

Even Today, Women Earn 74 Cents for Every \$1.00 Earned by a Man

A generation ago, there were many careers that a woman simply could not think of pursuing. And in the areas women were permitted to work, the opportunities for advancement were almost nonexistent. Today, thankfully, a young girl can pursue virtually any career she chooses.



Senator Tom Daschle visits with school children in Madison. Today girls have choices and opportunities that did not exist a generation ago.

Unfortunately, however, too many of our daughters face the prospect of not being fairly compensated for the work they do. Even today, women earn

only 74 cents for every \$1.00 earned by their male counterparts. A woman with a high school education earns, on average, nearly \$10,000 less annually than a man with the same level of education. A college educated woman earns nearly \$12,000 less than a man with an equal education. Over a lifetime, unless there is a change, a 25-year-old working woman will lose an estimated \$500,000 to unequal pay in her lifetime.

In South Dakota, as the state with largest percentage of two income families in the country, better pay for women means better pay for families. Better pay for working women means more family resources for child care, health care, education and retirement.

For these reasons, I have introduced the "Income Security Enhancement Act" in the United States Senate. This legislation will require the enforcement of equal pay laws for women in the workplace. But it not only works to achieve pay check equity -- it cuts taxes for families, cuts the marriage penalty tax, and provides for comprehensive women's pension protections.

If you'd like more information on this legislation, please feel free to contact me, or to visit my web site on the Internet.

Daschle Plan Protects Women's Health

Women's Health Issues Covered in Patients' Bill of Rights

Earlier this year, I introduced a "Patients' Bill of Rights" designed to give the power to make medical decisions to patients and doctors -- not insurance company bureaucrats. While the plan addresses the health care needs of all Americans, there are a number of provisions specifically designed to meet the unique health care needs of women. Under the "Patients' Bill of Rights":

- **Women's health decisions will be made by the patient and her doctor, not by insurance company accountants.**
- **Women will be able to visit their OB/GYN without having to get prior approval from their insurance company.**
- **Insurance companies will be prohibited from demanding that women be forced to leave the care of their doctor immediately following a mastectomy, lumpectomy or lymph node dissection.**

Working to Strengthen South Dakota's Schools

The single best investment we can make in our future is to make sure that every child in our state has access to a quality education. In South Dakota, we are blessed with many wonderful teachers, with parents interested in their children and communities dedicated to quality education. To help parents and teachers educate our kids, I've introduced legislation to improve our country's schools. My plan will:

- Continue the Federal partnership to ensure that all of our kids receive a solid education in the basics.
- Provide for the training and hiring of 100,000 new teachers, resulting in smaller class sizes and new teachers for rural areas. My plan will also provide for teacher training and retention assistance.
- Help communities develop constructive after-school programs to keep our kids off the streets and out of trouble.
- Ensure that all students have access to computers, the Internet and technology training.
- Give local school districts tools to help them rebuild crumbling schools so that all of our kids are safe in the classroom.

Tom Daschle's Women's Resource Guide

As your United States Senator, my job is to represent you. If you have questions, concerns, opinions or thoughts on any issue, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Additionally, my office is often able to provide assistance -- to help you find information or solve your problems with the federal government. If you think I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to let me know.



Every year Tom Daschle travels to every county in our state to visit with constituents. If you have a problem, concern, idea or question, please contact Tom at one of the offices below, or visit his web site on the Internet to contact Tom via electronic mail or to learn more about a variety of issues.

RAPID CITY
P.O. Box 8168
Rapid City, SD
57709
(605) 348-7551

ABERDEEN
P.O. Box 1536
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 225-8823

SIOUX FALLS
P.O. Box 1274
Sioux Falls, SD 57101
(605) 334-9596

On the Internet:

<http://daschle.senate.gov>

Washington Office:

**U.S. Senator Tom Daschle
509 Hart Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
1-800-424-9094**

Important Addresses and Phone Numbers

Small Business Development Centers

Aberdeen:
(605) 626-2565

Pierre:
(605) 945-1661

Rapid City:
(605) 394-5311

Sioux Falls:
(605) 367-5757

Vermillion:
(605) 677-5287

Watertown:
(605) 882-5115

Yankton:
(605) 665-4408

Non-Bank Small Business Financing for Small Businesses

Small Business
Administration:
(605) 330-4231

USDA Rural
Development:
(605) 352-1100

Governor's Office of
Economic Development:
1 (800) 872-6190